

From: David R. Plas
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 12:57pm
Subject: complaint about settlement

Dear Department of Justice,

I am writing to voice my disappointment in the recent settlement offer to resolve the anti-trust litigation being brought by the Dept. of Justice and the States against Microsoft. From my perspective, the proposed settlement gives Microsoft too many avenues to prevent or delay any process that might interfere with an anti-competitive action on Microsoft's part. The appeal mechanisms in the agreement will allow Microsoft to carry out anti-competitive actions for some time before the government will be able to force an end to such behavior. As was argued frequently during the trial, time is everything in the computer industry, and belated efforts by the government to restrict anti-competitive behavior are meaningless.

Please revise the agreement with Microsoft to explicitly ban anti-competitive types of business practices by Microsoft, and to put in place a fast-acting mechanism to punish the company for violations in the agreement. The current agreement will do nothing to change Microsoft's behavior or its effects: the illegal maintenance of monopoly power in an incredibly important and rapidly expanding American industry.

Sincerely,

David Plas